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**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD APRIL 24, 2007**

A Budget Work Session meeting of the City Council of the City of Hopewell, Virginia, was held Tuesday, April 24, 2007, at 5:37 PM in the City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 300 North Main Street, Hopewell, Virginia.

PRESENT: Steven R. Taylor, Mayor  
Brenda S. Pelham, Vice Mayor  
Christina J. Luman-Bailey, Councilor  
Curtis W. Harris, Councilor  
Kenneth B. Emerson, Councilor  
E. Randy Sealey, Councilor  
N. Gregory Cuffey, Councilor

John M. Altman, Jr., Interim City Manager  
Edwin N. Wilmot, City Attorney  
Ann M. Romano, City Clerk

Mayor Taylor opened the meeting at 5:37 PM. Roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Taylor	-	present
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	present
Councilor Bailey	-	present
Councilor Harris	-	present
Councilor Emerson	-	present
Councilor Sealey	-	present
Councilor Cuffey	-	ABSENT (arrived at 5:40 PM)

**BUDGET WORK SESSION**

Mr. Altman provided Council members with a copy of responses to some of the questions they raised at the Budget Work Session held on April 23, 2007. It also included information regarding CSA.

**HOPEWELL CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS PRESENTATION TO CITY COUNCIL**

Avon Miles, Chairman of the Hopewell School Board presented the FY 2007/2008 proposed budget to City Council (copy filed in the City Clerk's Office). The FY2008 Budget Targets are: ▪ High academic standards and core skills for all students; ▪ Safety, supportive learning environments; ▪ Highly qualified, high quality workforce; ▪ Appealing, safe, and inviting schools, and facilities along with useable equipment; and ▪ BRAC preparedness.

**2007-2008 Revenue**

	<b>Budgeted Revenue</b>
▪ Operating	\$42,380,425
▪ Food Service	\$ 1,518,195
▪ Textbook	\$ 397,121
▪ Building/Bus	\$ 1,481,213
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$46,318,718</b>

**Local Revenue Request**

- The requested appropriation from the City's General Fund is up by \$681,345 or 6.63%.

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- The requested appropriation for debt by \$31,418.
- The net requested increase in the total appropriation from the City is \$659,927. This would be a net increase of 5.52% in local funds.

Additions to Budget Include:

1.	Health Insurance	\$215,000
2.	Increased VRS Rate	\$316,844
3.	Salary Increases 5%	\$452,000
4.	6 New Teaching Positions	\$330,980
5.	Increased Cost of Alternative Education	\$ 50,000

DISCUSSION: Mayor Taylor asked for copies of the Schools' Salary Compensation Study. He appreciated all the efforts of the School System and everyone who came to the Work Session; he asked them to stand and be recognized. He vowed that Council would work hard to give them as much as possible. One of Council's main concerns is teacher retention. Dr. Odom mentioned that the business leaders and industries do support teachers and school staff. There are also federal programs to help with teachers and Police Officers with housing, etc. Perhaps hiring a Grant Writer for the City and schools would help. Hopewell schools should be preparing all students for college. We should do whatever it takes to do that. The average cost to educate a student in Hopewell is \$10,000. What is it in the surrounding communities?

Hopewell Public Schools installed cameras on school buses last year. There is a safety plan for the schools that is frequently reviewed; and school officials are always vigilant. Teachers and staff study how to recognize certain psychological behavior in students. Hopewell hopes never to need buzzers, escorts, etc., in its schools.

### **WAIVE THE RULES**

**Motion** was made by Vice Mayor Pelham, and seconded by Councilor Harris, to Waive Council's Rules and Procedures to allow teachers and citizens to address Council during the Budget Work Session. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes

### **SPEAKERS:**

Mitzie Eubank, 1602 Day Street, Hopewell, has lived and taught in Hopewell for 22 years. She has been involved with the Department of Recreation and Parks. She is very concerned about possible reduced funding to the Schools. (1) She is concerned for the students. The current fund higher class run ratio. Lower test scores. Lack of supplies. The School System has received a number of awards over the last few years. The students will lose before and after school programs. Need financial support of this Council. How many Councilors have talked with our teachers? How many have come to our schools? (2) Commit to our school system with a 100% base rate. Show you are committed to our schools!

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Craig Connolly, Scrimshaw Drive, Chester, husband of a Hopewell teacher. His wife has taught in Hopewell schools for 37 years. She took a 13% pay cut. Most of that is the cost of insurance. She is not scheduled for a pay raise. Many other teachers are going through the same thing.

Lois Haynes, Dinwiddie, is a First Grade teacher at Patrick Copeland School. This is her 17<sup>th</sup> year as a teacher in Hopewell; she taught in Dinwiddie for 13 years before coming in Hopewell. Her first year teaching in Hopewell she was overwhelmed by the support at convocation. She requested that the community continue that support at convocation. She also praised the organization of the schools in Hopewell. Everything is very precise. She loves teaching in Hopewell and asked for full budget support. There are more and more expectations and demands on the school system all the time.

Mr. Miles gave his closing comments and thanked Council, the executive staff and administration for their support. The School Board looked forward to working with Council in the future.

### **CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS**

Mr. Altman reported that the Commonwealth's Attorney, Anthony Sylvester, and Kay Rackley, Clerk to the Circuit Court Judge, will address Council at the Budget Work Session on Monday, April 30, 2007, at 5:30 PM in Council Chambers.

**Sheriff Anderson** addressed Council about the needs of the Hopewell Sheriff's office.

- **Supplemental Salaries** - He explained how the Sheriff's employees do not get overtime. All but two employees (80%) live in the City of Hopewell. Council does not usually fund supplemental salary for Constitutional Offices. He explained that in Prince George County and the City of Colonial Heights new Sheriff's deputies will start at more than what Hopewell deputies presently make. All of Hopewell's deputies pay is less than the starting salary in Prince George and Colonial Heights, with five years, three years, and one year on the job. The Sheriff has asked for \$16,000 in Supplemental Salary increase for those employees in the FY 2007/2008 Budget.

The starting pay in the Sheriff's Department is \$26,108.00. This is what comes from the State Compensation Board. The Sheriff is asking for one part-time position.

- **Auxiliary Sheriff's Deputies** – There are 12 individuals with excellent qualifications. The Sheriff has requested funds to purchase uniforms for the Auxiliary Deputies.
- **One Additional Vehicle** – The Sheriff wants to bring the Hopewell Sheriff's Department into the vision that Council has for the City of Hopewell.
- Sheriff Anderson thanked Council for the vests that they approved. The previous ones were 12 years old and were no longer serviceable.

Councilor Cuffey is an Auxiliary Sheriff's Deputy, as is Avon Miles. He agrees that the department is run efficiently and cooperatively. Services are provided with no overtime. The department supported the Hopewell Police Department when necessary. There is a willingness to work with other public service entities.

Councilor Bailey indicated that the Library Staff will sit down with someone from the Sheriff's Department for some guidelines on maintaining a civil, calm atmosphere at the library.

Councilor Emerson asked for the Sheriff's Department's requests in priority order:

- #1 Salary Supplement
- #2 Duties of Part-time Employees
- #3 Uniforms for Auxiliary Deputies (12, no more than 15), Weapons and Weapon Training (at little or no cost)
- #4 One Additional Vehicle

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Councilor Harris supports the Sheriff's request for \$16,000 for Salary Supplement and uniforms, and auxiliary deputy's uniforms for 12, but no more than 15.

### **RECESS**

At 7:20 PM Mayor Taylor called for a 10 minute recess.

### **REGULAR MEETING**

Mayor Taylor opened the regular meeting at 7:42 PM. Roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Taylor	-	present
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	present
Councilor Bailey		present
Councilor Harris	-	present
Councilor Emerson	-	present
Councilor Sealey	-	present
Councilor Cuffey	-	present

Prayer was offered by Rev. Andre Taylor, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion** was made by Councilor Harris, and seconded by Councilor Cuffey, to approve the Consent Agenda: Minutes- Special Meeting April 3, 2007; Pending List; Information for Council Review: [Transportation Safety Board minutes 2/6/07 & agenda 4/10/07]; Personnel Change Report; Public Hearings Announcements: Set a PH on May 8, 2007 – request by Otis Henry, Jr. to rezone 10,000 s.f. of land known as 1305 Meadow St., at the corner of Meadow St. and Avondale Ave., currently zoned R-2, Residential Medium Density; the applicant is requesting rezoning to R-3, Residential High Density; Ward #6; Routine Approval of Work Sessions: Ordinances on second and final reading: Proclamations/Resolutions/Presentations: Administrative Professionals' Week, April 22-28, 2007 and Micah A. Justice – Eagle Scout. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes

Mayor Taylor read the Administrative Professionals Week Proclamation into the record.

### **PROCLAMATION** **ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS WEEK**

**WHEREAS**, administration professionals play an essential role in coordinating the office operations of businesses, government, educational institutions, and other organizations; and

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**WHEREAS**, the work of administrative professionals today requires advanced knowledge and expertise in communications, computer software, office technology, project management, organization, customer service and other vital office management responsibilities; and

**WHEREAS**, **Administrative Professionals Week** is observed annually in workplaces around the world to recognize the important contributions of administrative support staff and is sponsored by the **International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP)**; and

**WHEREAS**, the theme of **Administrative Professionals Week 2007** is “**Shaping the Future**,” reflecting how today’s career-minded administrative professionals are handling increasingly advanced roles and looking toward the future by recognizing the importance of life-long learning.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Steven R. Taylor, hereby proclaim the

*Week of April 22-28, 2007 as  
Administrative Professionals Week  
and Wednesday, April 25 as  
Administrative Professionals Day*

saluting the valuable contributions of administrative professionals in the workplace. And, I call on all employers to support continued training and development for administrative staff, recognizing that a well-trained workforce is essential for success in today’s business world

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Hopewell to be affixed the 24<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2007.

*/s/ Steven R. Taylor, Mayor,  
City of Hopewell, Virginia*

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Mayor Taylor invited Micah Justice and his parents, Phil and former Mayor Vanessa Justice, his grandparents, as well as Troop 924 and his Scout Master, to join him at the podium for the presentation of the proclamation. Mayor Taylor asked former Mayor Vanessa Justice to read the proclamation to her son, and Mayor Taylor made the presentation. When asked to say a few words, Micah said that earning the rank of Eagle has been a privilege and an honor, and he did not want it to end. It took until his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday to complete. He learned not to procrastinate. Achieving the Eagle is a high honor. His Scout Master said that this is the future of Hopewell and of America. He was very proud.

**PROCLAMATION**  
**MICAH ALEXANDER JUSTICE**  
**EAGLE SCOUT**

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**WHEREAS**, **Micah Alexander Justice** achieved the rank of **Eagle**, Scouting’s highest award, on February 6, 2007 and the Court of Honor held May 5, 2007, acknowledging his achievements; and

**WHEREAS**, **Micah** has been a Boy Scout since his crossover from Cub Scout Pack 924 in May, 2000, wherein he achieved the highest Webelo award, the Arrow of Light; and as a Boy Scout he has held the offices of Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Historian, Scribe, Chaplain’s Aid, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, and Den Chief. He was inducted into the Order of the Arrow; was employed by BSA at the Cub Adventure Camp for two consecutive summers, 2005 and 2006; and currently serves as an Assistant Scout Master for Troop 924 and as webmaster for the troop website; and

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**WHEREAS, Micah** is active in three Scouting organizations, to wit: Troop 924, from which he gained his Eagle award, Venture Crew 999 under Mr. Steve Thomas, and the Hopewell Police Explorers led by Dian Lezocte; and,

**WHEREAS,** Ordained as a deacon in his church, Covenant Bible Fellowship Living Word Church, in 2005, **Micah** provides video-recording-computer support for the services, is part of the Worship team, and occasionally develops PowerPoint presentations; and,

**WHEREAS,** he is a 2006 recipient of the Bronze Presidential Volunteer Service Award for missions work in Mexico in 2005, and volunteers, as needed, for the Hopewell Historic Foundation and the Hopewell-Prince George Red Cross organization; and,

**WHEREAS,** he has also been active politically throughout his junior high and high school years including working on the local Justice campaign, the state level Jerry Kilgore-Bill Bolling-Bob McDonnell campaigns, and federally, for the Bush campaigns; and,

**WHEREAS,** The Scout Law states:

*“A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.”* THROUGHOUT HIS BOY SCOUT CAREER, **MICAH** HAS EXEMPLIFIED THE BOY SCOUT LAW WHICH INCLUDES HONORING OTHERS AND GOD THROUGH HONESTY, INTEGRITY, AND HIGH STANDARDS. **MICAH’S** DILIGENCE AND WORK ETHIC IS DEMONSTRATED BY THE EAGLE PROJECT.

The Scout Oath says: *“On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my Country, to obey the Scout Law, to help other people at all times, and to keep my self physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.”* HIS ADHERENCE TO THE SCOUT OATH TO BE PHYSICALLY STRONG, MENTALLY AWAKE, AND MORALLY STRAIGHT AND TO HONOR BOTH GOD AND HIS COUNTRY PROVIDES MODELING FOR EVERY SCOUT WHO WILL FOLLOW HIM AND EVERY ADULT WITH WHOM HE WILL WORK.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that I, Steven R. Taylor, Mayor, on behalf of the City Council of the City of Hopewell, Virginia, and its citizens, extend to

***Micah Alexander Justice***

congratulations and recognition for his dedicated and devoted service, and for his achievement of the rank of **Eagle Scout** in the **Boy Scouts of America**, on this the 5<sup>TH</sup> day of May, 2007.

*/s/Steven R. Taylor, Mayor*

### **PUBLIC HEARING – 2007 TAX RATE ORDINANCE**

This was the night advertised as a Public Hearing to receive citizen comments and to approve an ordinance on first reading setting the 2007 tax rates.

The City Administration recommended that the real estate tax rate be set at \$1.12 per \$100 of assessed value, the personal property tax rate be set at \$3.05 per \$100 of assessed value, and the machinery and tool tax rate be set at \$3.05 per \$100 of assessed value. The setting of the tax rate, which is by ordinance, requires two readings. It is estimated that approving the recommended tax rates will generate \$40,181,575 in general fund revenue.

The public hearing was opened at 7:30 PM.

Wayne Walton, 534 North Avenue, Hopewell, agrees that it is difficult to fund all the requests. The real estate tax rate at \$1.12 will be difficult. The area will be actively planning for BRAC for the next two years. There will be some advantage the City may not have allowed for. There will be bonuses, two new hotels and many new homes. There will be local and state restaurant taxes – 10.5%. Prince George has no restaurant tax. Hopewell must attract restaurants into downtown – think outside the box. Come down from the proposed \$1.12 proposed real estate tax.

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Alvin Flowers, Jr., said that his assessment went up 70% and that is enough of an increase.

Tommy Wells, 1004 Smithfield Avenue, Hopewell, feels that the rate should be lower than \$1.12. His assessment went up \$83,000 since last year. His house did not increase in value that much since last year. Nothing you can do to help would be appreciated.

There being no other speakers, the public hearing closed at 8:03 PM.

**Motion** was made by Councilor Sealey, and seconded by Councilor Cuffey, to set the real estate tax rate at \$1.09 per \$100 of assessed value, the personal property tax rate at \$3.05 per \$100 of assessed value, and the machinery and tool tax rate at \$100 of assessed value.

**DISCUSSION:** There are more requests from other agencies forthcoming. The infrastructure of the City is falling apart and will soon need to be repaired. Many localities throughout the state are going through what we are going through with reassessments. A real estate tax of \$1.09 gives us 10% growth. Council commits to support the school budget. There will be a lot of growth in this City in the next few years. New revenue will come into the City. We must tighten some of our spending. \$1.09 is lower than Colonial Heights. The assessment goes up and the tax rate goes down. The budget will meet many of the needs of the City.

Citizens cannot continue to be taxed. The city cannot have a minimal housing stock; cannot increase taxes and expect businesses to stay in Hopewell. Taxes must be lowered.

At the Budget Work Session on April 23, 2007, Council requested from the Finance Director General Fund options. At \$1.12, if schools are fully funded, but other cuts are made, there will be nothing to the Constitutional Officers and a \$265,455 deficit. The budget should be scrutinized some more. Every penny of the tax rate equals \$112,000.

**Motion** to close the debate:

Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	NO
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	NO
Councilor Harris	-	NO

**Motion** failed; requires 5/2 vote to close debate.

City administration needs economic development and must start collecting revenues. The burden must be removed from big manufacturing. (The Cigarette Tax will be part of the Budget Resolution at a later time.)

When the Real Estate Assessments came out, many individuals complained. Many people are on fixed incomes. Assessments increased an average of 22%; some 50-60%. There is new construction on vacant lots all over town; new hotels; new homes. We must speculate on new growth. The new City Manager (Ed Daley) is comfortable with this. If we move on this quickly, we should get ready to lower the taxes, but make sure that all of the pieces that we look for in the City are in place.

Setting the tax rate requires two readings. At the next reading the rate may change. This sets the mark. We want to work towards \$1.09. Maybe we could make it with \$1.06. The new City Manager is

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aware of the \$1.09 and is comfortable with it. Some Councilors are concerned that Mr. Daley has not actually looked at these figures. They want input from someone who has done calculations on \$1.09. According to Mr. Altman, no one from administration has calculated the figures on \$1.09.

**Motion** was made by Councilor Bailey, and seconded by Councilor Harris, to table approval of the Tax Rate ordinance on first reading. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Emerson	-	NO
Councilor Sealey	-	NO
Mayor Taylor	-	NO
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	NO
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes

Mr. Hager indicated that the Cigarette Tax would be removed from consideration. Full funding would be given to the Schools. There would be some savings by re-bidding the insurance. But, unfunded requests could not give a balanced budget. When you lower the tax rate, you also affect the PSC. The challenge to administration is to go back and see what \$1.09 will get.

Four Council members agreed on \$1.09. The Finance Director has not figured out and let us know why he put down \$1.12 rather than \$1.09. Administration proposed \$1.12 to create a balanced spending plan. The rate has come from \$1.28 down to \$1.20. Administration will go back and look at \$1.09 and look forward to the budget work session on April 30.

**Motion** to close the debate:

Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	NO
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	NO
Councilor Harris	-	NO

Motion failed; a 5/2 vote is required to close debate.

A **Substitute Motion** was made by Councilor Bailey, to approve a real estate tax rate to be set at \$1.08 per \$100 of assessed value, the personal property tax rate to be set at \$3.05 per \$100 of assessed value, and the machinery and tool tax rate be set at \$3.05 per \$100 of assessed value. There being no second to the motion, the motion died.

\$500,000 was a reserve balance in the Capitol Fund for property acquisition and site plans for a new Fire Station #2 in the west end of the City. If that is not done, \$500,000 is available to do another project. But, it should not be used for recurring costs. New construction comes on in phases and is pro-rated. Six months into the year, the tax payer gets an adjusted tax bill. \$500,000 would go towards something else – vehicles, etc.

**Motion** to close the debate:

Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes



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Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	NO
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	NO
Councilor Harris	-	NO

Motion failed; a 5/2 vote is required to close debate.

Mr. Hager does not know what is in the budget that could be taken out. The City Manager and he requested guidance from the Council about what stays in and what can come out. There will still be a deficit – just how much is unknown. He cautioned Council not to depend on fund balances for recurring costs.

Talking about a new fire station, is a start toward growth in Fire Protection Services. It has been on the drawing board for two years already. Regarding the Capital Projects Fund, it is funded with recurring money coming from meals and lodging tax.

Why would you prioritize the Fire Station for this year and not next year? These were two projects that the City needed to do something about. A site study had already been done. Five sites were identified; three sites remain available after two were removed and are under commercial development. (1) There will not be a site; (2) the remaining sites were expensive. Look at capital requests – probably \$18-20,000 worth of requests. Fire station in west end is not big enough. Not big enough for the crew who live there. There are limited kitchen and sleeping quarters. Need emergency command center.

**Motion** to close the debate:

Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	NO

The motion passed.

Upon the roll call on the original **motion** to set the real estate tax rate at \$1.09 per \$100 of assessed value, the personal property tax rate at \$3.05 per \$100 of assessed value, and the machinery and tool tax rate at \$3.05 per \$100 of assessed value, the vote resulted:

Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	NO

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**PRESENTATION – RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD – SHERIFF GREG ANDERSON**

Sheriff Greg Anderson is Chairman of the Riverside Community Criminal Justice Board. He and Bettina Coghill addressed Council with the report from the RCCJB Board. The Counties of Surry and Prince George and the City of Hopewell are all parts of the board. They meet every two months. There is a Drug Court Program, Video Teleconferencing Equipment; Mental Health Services, and they Partner with Fort Lee, among other things.

Four Hopewell members serve this board. The purpose of the Board shall be to develop community corrections program which will provide the judicial system with sentencing alternatives for certain non-violent offenders who may require less than institutional custody and more than supervised probation. The Community Corrections Resources Board, consisting of persons appointed by the participating governing bodies of cities and counties in the Sixth Judicial Circuit, by the judges of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, and by the Department of Corrections, shall administer in an advisory capacity the Southside Community Diversion Incentive Program. The size of the Board shall be determined by the number of participating jurisdictions, with one governmental appointee from each; judicial appointees totaling up to the number of governmental appointees; and one Department of Corrections appointee per jurisdictional area. Council's appointee serves a two (2)-year term of office. Meeting Time and Place: Second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Prince George Administrative Office, 6610 Commons Drive, Suite 204, Prince George, VA. 23875.

**WAIVE THE RULES**

**Motion** was made by Councilor Harris, and seconded by Councilor Sealey, to Waive Council's Rules and Procedures to add P-2, Report from Tommy Wells on Crater District Area Agency on Aging. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes

**PRESENTATION – TOMMY WELLS – CRATER DISTRICT AREA AGENCY ON AGING**

Mr. Wells has been on the Crater District Area Agency on Aging for seven years and has been Chairman for two years.

**Crater District Area Agency on Aging  
Service to the City of Hopewell  
October 2005-September 2006 FY**

Service	# of clients	# of units
Adult Daycare	2	804 hours
Congregate Nutrition (Senior Center Meals)	1	121
Emergency Assistance (mostly for help with heating bills)	11	46
Senior Job Training (employment)	2	3320
Meals-On-Wheels (for frail Seniors)	28	7139
In-Homemaker Assistance	25	1971 hours
Information and Referral (for assistance and help)	42	112

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Health Maintenance/Medication Management	14	19 hours
Transportation (medical)	161	4662
Medicare Part D (understanding, enrolling, etc.)	14	19 hours
Minor Home Repairs/Energy Conservation	70	70
Fancare/Cooling Assistance	27	27
Seni0or Volunteerism (to other community services)	71	6209 hours
Foster Grandparents (to help youth in need)	5	4378 hours
Legal/Ombudsman Assistance (wills, Powers of Attorney, etc.)	40	93 hours
Totals	513	28,989

Report filed in the City Clerk's office.

**CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST – MAYOR TAYLOR – SELECTION OF OFFICIAL CITY OF HOPEWELL SONG**

The Mayor proposed that Council establish a contest for persons to submit a song to become the City's official song. An ad-hoc committee should be formed consisting of one person from each ward nominated by each Council member. This group would be charged with receiving and selecting the official song. Applicants would be given until October 25, 2007 to compose and enter submissions. The Ad-hoc Committee would report back to City Council with recommendations for song adoption by December 11, 2007.

Evelyn Connelly submitted a song for Council to consider making the City's official song. In the interest of fairness to other persons who may desire to have their song as the City's official song, a contest is suggested to have songs submitted to be selected as the City's official song.

Mayor Taylor reported that in June 2006 Ms. Connelly presented her song to Council. It would be unfair to select that song until others were allowed to submit their songs. The Ad-hoc committee will be composed of one member from each of the seven wards nominated by each Council member. They will be given until October 25, 2007 to compose and enter their selection. Mayor Taylor suggested a \$4,000 prize to the winner.

Vice Mayor Pelham disagreed with the \$4,000 prize, and suggested a token of perhaps \$500.00. Councilor Emerson also disagreed with the \$4,000 prize and suggested \$1,000. Councilor Cuffey asked what the costs might be, would it be distributed and perhaps let the ad-hoc committee decide. Councilor Sealey supported Councilor Emerson's suggestion of the \$1,000 prize.

**Motion** was made by Councilor Cuffey, and seconded by Councilor Sealey to establish a contest to submit songs from which to select one as an official City of Hopewell song, and establish a \$1,000.00 prize for the winning song.

A **Substitute Motion** was made by Vice Mayor Pelham, and seconded by Councilor Harris, to recommend an ad-hoc committee of one member from each of the seven wards, to be nominated by the seven Council members, to receive nominations for the official City of Hopewell song, and to establish a prize to be determined by the ad-hoc committee. A **motion to amend the motion** was made by Councilor Bailey that the prize should not exceed a specific amount. The amendment was not accepted by the maker (Vice Mayor Pelham) and the seconder (Councilor Harris) of the substitute motion. Upon the roll call on the main motion, the vote resulted:

Councilor Emerson	-	NO
Councilor Sealey	-	NO

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Mayor Taylor	-	NO
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes

**CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST – MAYOR TAYLOR – CONTRACT FOR STEVE HERBERT – DRAFT EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT**

On April 3, 2007 the City Attorney circulated a draft contract to City Council regarding Steve Herbert serving in the consultant capacity for Economic Development for the City of Hopewell. The draft agreement indicated that Mr. Herbert would work for the City of Hopewell for 40 hours per month at the rate of \$65.00 per hour. The agreement detailed the sites to be developed, and he would be reimbursed for normal expenses capped at \$500.00.

**Motion** was made by Councilor Emerson, and seconded by Councilor Sealey, to enter into an Agreement with Steve Herbert for Consulting services regarding Economic Development for the City of Hopewell.

**DISCUSSION:**

How would he be communicating with Kaufman & Canoles and Council?

Talking with administration. He would identify and bring in developers. He would be in constant communication with administration and with Council. Make sure there is good communication going on with all of Council. Include that in the contract.

What will the relationship be with the new Director of Development and the new City Manager?

As a contractor, Mr. Herbert has no authority to bind the City into any contracts. Mr. Herbert has been associated with Municipal Government for many years. He has a great deal of experience. The City needs someone like him to go out and encourage developers to come to Hopewell and develop. In the ten hours a week that he will be working, he can do a great deal of good for Hopewell. He knows many big developers that can benefit Hopewell.

There was concern about who would answer to whom. Who will be responsible to whom. The new City Manager, Interim City Manager, Mayor and Council must communicate often. Information must be shared with the entire Economic Development Committee.

Kaufman & Canoles is the group that will work with an interested developer in Hopewell. They will come and make a proposal. The City Manager will take the proposal and put it in the hands of Kaufman & Canoles. Then they recommend back to administration. Then they call a meeting of Council. Prior to that, someone must be out and bringing people into the City. Mr. Herbert will be that person to go out to developers and bring them into the City, and show them opportunities available in Hopewell. The City Manager gives them to Kaufman & Canoles.

A few weeks ago there was an item on the agenda about a hotel and new way to get into the hotel. Some Councilors knew about it but most of the Council did not know about it. We should not have a situation where two or three people can get together and can see the staff doing what they need to do – but Council should do it together. Not with one or two people doing it on the side. That has been going on since July. Unless we have some strict guidelines we are going to have a great problem. Too many people should not be involved in the process. Let it be known that the City Council is seven people. As much as we can we should get the information from all seven members of the Council. Does not want the people in Ward 2 to think that he had not participated in the process.

Mr. Herbert has no ability to negotiate on behalf of the City. Communication is a problem. Perhaps the agreement should add that Mr. Herbert will update Council at Council meetings. Also, as

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Council members we should be able to call Mr. Herbert just to ask if anything is going on. There is no problem adding to the agreement to report to Council at Council meetings in closed or open sessions.

It is terrible to listen to the innuendos about lack of communication. Everyone saw the agreement before it came before us tonight. Mr. Herbert did a great job while he was here and will do a great job as a consultant. We have procedures. We just have to follow them. No one is being left out.

Mr. Altman suggested setting up a meeting with Council with the properties to look at goals and objectives of Council, discuss reporting processes. A Work Session or Closed Meeting could be scheduled with Kaufman & Canoles. He would work with them to come up with an agreeable date.

MAYOR TAYLOR ADDRESSED COUNCIL'S ROLES - ARE TO MEET TO DISCUSS THE ISSUES AND NOT THE PEOPLE INVOLVED OR THE MOTIVES AND THEN TO VOTE. READ THE RULES & PROCEDURES. HE WOULD TOLERATE NO MORE PERSONAL SPEAKING OR THEY WOULD BE CALLED OUT OF ORDER; A SECOND TIME CALLED OUT OF ORDER AND THEY WOULD BE ASKED TO LEAVE. THE MEETING SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DECORUM OF THIS BODY.

In the Letter of Agreement Council did not get together and discuss this ahead of time. They received an e-mail, which was later put on the agenda. There was an indication that people were saying things that were innuendos. Mayor Taylor again cautioned Council members to please speak to the matter before Council on the agenda.

As relates to the agreement, there is a concern that makes the agreement strong enough so that we will not have situations where he will get a call or e-mail that there will be a meeting at 6:00 PM and place a conference on top of that. The agreement should guard against that.

Councilor Cuffey offered an **amendment to the original motion** that as a Consultant, Mr. Steve Herbert would report to Council at a City Council meeting, for the purpose of updating Council through the City Manager.

On the **motion** to close debate:

Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes

Upon the roll call on the **original motion** made by Councilor Emerson, and seconded by Councilor Sealey, to enter into an Agreement with Steve Herbert for Consulting services regarding Economic Development for the City of Hopewell, the vote resulted

Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes

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**CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST – COUNCILOR BAILEY – REQUEST FOR UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF DOWNTOWN STREETSCAPING AND SIGNAGE**

Councilor Bailey asked for a brief update on the status of the Downtown Streetscaping and Signage. Interim City Manager March Altman responded with a brief verbal report.

The new library is up and has had its grand opening.

Streetscaping: Construction of Library Street. East Cawson Street on the south side of the street. North side of East Cawson Street will be extended to Route #10 in upcoming weeks. The north side of Appomattox Street will receive curb tie in to Main Street. That will position out into the road way. Come over to Cawson Street to the southern have of Broadway from Route #10 to East Broadway, then to Broadway.

Wayfinding System: Will be asking Council to authorize money to go to bid for banners probably in May. Alternative to disc re: aggregate finish to look at stamped finish. Public same time as Wayfinding. Working with contractor to revise schedule. Impact on businesses. Pledge was made to always allow access to buildings. Parking lot behind the Beacon Theatre should be finished by the summer. There will be on-street parking on Appomattox Street.

**REGULAR BUSINESS – POLICE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT**

Colonial Heights, Hopewell, Petersburg, Chesterfield, Sussex, Dinwiddie, Surry, and Prince George agree to provide reciprocal Police support to the jurisdictions named as parties to this agreement. Police support includes any law enforcement activity undertaken by a participating jurisdiction.

Local governments in the Petersburg Metropolitan Area have determined that the provision of Police aid across jurisdictional lines will increase their ability to preserve the safety and welfare of the entire area.

**Motion** was made by Vice Mayor Pelham, and seconded by Councilor Emerson, to resolve to approve the Petersburg Metropolitan Area Police Mutual Aid Agreement. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes

**REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Councilor Bailey reminded everyone about the Annual Boards and Commissions Appreciation Banquet to be held on Thursday, April 26 at the Jordan Point Country Club. She also reminded citizens of the Clean City Commissions' Clean up Week April 21-28, 2007.

Councilor Cuffey reported that there will be a Ward #7 meeting tentatively scheduled on May 31, 2007.

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Councilor Sealey reported that in the recent past some things in the paper have not been favorable to the City. Recently, however, several things were of a positive note: the City won a suit; the Cat Quest and the Editorial by Jerry Sober about the new library – three positive things. Let us move on from here.

Councilor Emerson stated that the Chamber of Commerce hosted their Annual Dinner at the new library last Thursday night, and the Library grand opening was the next day. This Friday is the Hooray for Hopewell Golf Tournament. May 3 is the Ft. Lee Golf Tournament at Ft. Lee. The Ward #3 Ward Meeting is on May 1, at the Library in the Community Room on the first floor; all are invited.

Vice Mayor Pelham reminded everyone that SOL testing begins on Monday. All students need proper rest and breakfast. She thanked teachers, faculty, staff and administration for their support for full funding for the FY 2007/2008 Budget. She also thanked the Sheriff for inviting her to the Healthy Families fund raiser at the Beacon Theatre recently. The Chamber of Commerce function and the library grand opening were great for Hopewell. Look for more progress in Hopewell.

Mayor Taylor reported that the Hopewell Clean City Commission has scheduled its 2007 Spring Clean UP Week from Saturday April 21-April 28. The Convenience Center would be open Monday-Friday, 12:30-6:00 PM, and Saturday 8:00 AM-3:00 PM. Also, he is very excited about the new City Manager, Ed Daley. The Mayor also reported on the grand opening of the new library. He invited everyone to come and explore. On Friday, April 20, 130 people came to the Ashford Civic Plaza to memorialize the tragedy that occurred on the campus of Virginia Tech on April 16. J. T. Morris Funeral Home provided a memorial book for signatures. It was also signed by attendees at the Annual Boards and Commissions Banquet and by employees in the Municipal Building. The book was forwarded to the president of Virginia Tech.

Vice Mayor Pelham informed everyone about the Hopewell 2007 Celebration Opening Celebration on May 12 at 6:30 PM in Ashford Civic Plaza. Everyone is invited. On June 23 Bike Virginia will be coming through Hopewell. On the same date will be A Taste of Hopewell. Contact Donna Tolliver-Walker or Jo Turek for more information. For more Tourism information call Libbie Newsom; activities will span April-December 2007.

## **ADJOURN**

At 10:30 PM, **motion** was made by Councilor Cuffey, and seconded by Councilor Sealey, to adjourn the meeting. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes

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Steven R. Taylor, Mayor

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Ann M. Romano, City Clerk